



# Pacific R2R Programme Workshop

## Most Significant Change

### The GEF Pacific IW R2R Project - Vanuatu



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<b>Date of recording</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> of July 2019
<b>When did it happen</b>	June 2018 - June 2019

#### IW R2R Project Support to Tagabe River Management Committee (TRMC)

My name is Erie Sami and I currently work and in position within the Dept. of Water Resources (DoWR) as the Rural Water Supply Manager and Hydrological Officer. I am also the Chairman to Tagabe River Management Committee (TRCM) which is government judicial body appointed to over ally oversee any related developments/ activities occurring within Tagabe River Catchment Area (TRCA) which I understand it is also the demonstration site for the IW R2R Project. TRCA has been always the eye of importance and priority to the government since water supply in Port Vila is extracted from this very source and thus TRMC the establishment in 1993 and has been chaired (moved) between different governments sectors to minimize impact of pollution.



Tagabe River Management Committee (TRMC)/National Project Steering Committee.

The IW R2R Project came into existent late December 2016 and has been part of the TRMC ever since. The project also now regards TRMC as its national steering committee. It is by mandate of the Water Resource Management Act to have local committee to oversee the declared water protections. TRMC now also expands its area of jurisdiction to the lower catchment right down to the coastal areas as documented in the management plan. Therefore, with its relevant members whom represent are the preferred stakeholders for the Project itself, the project has no need to develop another steering body which may duplicate the mechanism in place but rather utilize the “already existing” structure. It is then now clear that this is how the project is involved with TRMC.



Minster of Lands and Natural Resource, Hon. Alfred Mao officially signed off and launched the Tagabe River Catchment R2R Management Plan.

Under TRMC and the support from the project, there has been some significant chance and achievements which both are result of joint implementation and thus be regarded as similar achievement of both the R2R project and TRMC. Firstly, the TRMC has had much support from the project in terms of the secretarial services. National Project Management is the secretariat to the TRMC therefore providing normal secretarial roles, coordinate entire committee, plans (quarterly, annual plans) and coordinates its implementations, supports TRMC financially and also identifying aid project to support TRMC and the implementation of the national management plan.

Secondly, the development of the Tagabe River Management Plan. The plan is deemed to be effective from 2017-2030 and so far the project has been playing a major part of its implementation. As such, this document is referred to as a national plan.

Thirdly, with the assistant and involvement of the project, TRMC has had the opportunity to revised the Declaration of the Water Protection Zones Regulations with proper boundaries zoning into three (3) zones; zone 1 (Tabu Area); zone 2 (Recharge Zone); zone 3 (Catchment Area). It has been endorsed in 2017 naming the water protection zones as Matnakara Water

Protection Zones which the regulation is named after. This purposely to secure tagabe catchment water quantity and the quality.

Fourthly, Rehabilitation/habitat rehabilitation within TRCA. Tree planting in zone 1, tree planting in zone 2 and restore buffer areas in Tagabe. TRMC has undertaken some tree planting before but rather smaller scale compared to current one.

Ever since the established of TRMC there has never been a clear vision for the TRCA but rather it was just responding to the on ground situations. TRMC now has a management plan (2017-2030) which the project has contributed towards its development and its current implementation. This is a national document and with this it can be replicated to any catchment model of R2R. Thus TRMC has now a clear vision to ensure water quality of Tagabe (ground and surface water) to meet national standards.

I choose this particular change mainly because the management plan was developed in such a way that it links to the overall National Sustainable Development Plan. The activities developed for this management plan has links to the national targets for Vanuatu portrayed in various policies and strategic plans and frameworks. Identifying stakeholders needs/interest is a crucial course in which planning is important and thus the national project manager as the secretariat to the committee ensure this is entirely considered.

Furthermore, the planning and rolling out of the management plan. As per component of the project is to develop and implement the management plan. So far the project's MY-CWP has incorporated the majority of the activities in the management plan as part of its commitment to implement this national document to achieve the NSDP as well the SDG by the 2030.



Tagabe River Catchment Area (TRCA) which is also the project demonstration sites comprising of upper and lower catchment.